New Orleans Dec. 19th 1834

Dear Brother

It is interesting to all the brethren to know what the Lord is doing, either in judgement or mercy, abroad in our land. The enclosed will reveal to them the state of things here, and will account for the decline of efforts in behalf of seamen here. This array of infidelity is truly formidable. The only hope is in the Almighty God the Maker of heaven and earth. You will readily acknowledge this in theory; but in order to feel it you must be in our circumstances here.

Several years ago fifteen thousand dollars was appropriated to a Seamans Chapel by the Christians of this place. An admirable situation was chosen and a large building erected, which will require ten thousand dollars more to complete. It has never been occupied yet for preaching. It would make a splendid Church if completed, and occupies a most commanding position for either Boat-men, Sailors, ~~and~~ or citizens. The principal part of the seaman are citizens of Newyork & the New England States—Natives of Newyork and Boston. If a proper Agent were employed Could not five or six thousand dollars be raised in those cities? The little band of disciples here would make up the remainder required to complete the Chapel. This Chapel, on many accounts would exert a better moral influence on the city than any Church in its interiour. The Mercantile influence here is all powerful. Its interests are alone all absorbing. The Chaplain here if a Man of good talents, would reach that influence which is unaffected by any other. There is no Chaplain. I cannot repreſs the conviction that the Seaman's Society in NewYork are an inefficient Body. The longer they delay the leſs hope of succeſs here. A few years more and this costly building will be in ruins. The floating population (30,000) of NewOrleans have no Sabbath. The Levee & markets are as full on Sabbath as any other day. The Theatres are now opened every Sabbath evening. The Multitudes here rush to perdition. Will you not pray that they may be plucked as brands from eternal burnings!

Your Affectionate Brother in Christ

John Newton Allen

From the New Orleans Bee of December 15.

GREAT PUBLIC MEETING.

In pursuance of a call made at a preliminary meeting, the most numerous assemblage of our citizens met on Saturday night, the 13th December, at Bishop's Hotel.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Samuel P. Moore, in an appropriate address, explaining the objects of the meeting, when it was fully organized and proceeded to business. Upon motion, it was

Resolved, That as it is unprecedented to condemn any man without a hearing, that this meeting assure Mr. Parker of protection, provided he will appear and make his defence.

In a short time the Rev. Joel Parker arrived, and spoke for some time in his defence.

After he had retired, it was upon motion first Resolved. that the Rev. Joel Parker had not succeeded in exculpating himself from the charges alleged against him.

The following Preamble and Resolutions were thereupon almost unanimously adopted:

Whereas the Rev. Joel Parker, Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of this city, in an address delivered before an audience in Hartford, Con., in the month of August last, did most grossly calumniate the citizens of New Orleans, by stating, "that of the Catholics the men are almost without an exception Atheists; they regard religion only as intended for women and servants, and do not give themselves any trouble on the subject; the Protestants can hardly be said to be in a much better state;" and whereas the said Joel Parker, notwithstanding the excitement thereby occasioned, has returned to this city, with the intention of resuming his ministry in the aforesaid church, without having exculpated himself; and whereas the people of New Orleans have too long suffered, both in reputation and their interests, by the calumnies of "clerical villains" and hirelings, and interested writers who visit our city; and whereas a committee of Mr. Parker's church, after the above charges were made in the Bulletin of the 4th September last, pledged themselves, that if Mr. Parker had thus slandered this community the pastoral relations between him and his church and congregation should be at once dissolved; and whereas the said committee published an attempted defence of the Rev. Joel Parker in the Louisiana Advertiser,—therefore, as the sense of this meeting, it is

Resolved, That the Rev. Joel Parker has incurred the just displeasure and indignation of this community for the slanders uttered against this population, in his address before an audience in Connecticut, in the month of August last.

Resolved, That in their defence of their pastor, published in the Louisiana Advertiser of the 12th November, the committee of Mr. Parker's church have not succeeded in exculpating him from the charge of having slandered the population of this city.

Resolved, That the attempt on the part of the Rev. Joel Parker to resume his ministry, without having exculpated himself from the above charge, can be considered in no other light than as a contempt for the feelings and opinions of this community.

Resolved, That the conduct of the Elders of the First Presbyterian Church in attempting to force so obnoxious a person as Mr. Parker upon the community, should be considered as a contempt of public opinion.

Resolved, That the future residence of Mr. Joel Parker in this city is fraught with danger to the peace and quietness of this population.

Resolved, That the Chairman and Secretaries of this meeting furnish the Rev. Joel Parker and each of his Elders with a copy of the proceedings of this meeting, and request Mr. Parker to leave the city.

Resolved, That notwithstanding the people of New Orleans would be pleased to enjoy the favorable opinion of their Northern brethren, yet they will never consent to sacrifice their own self-respect by adopting their opinions, and by becoming the dupes of a fanatical and aspiring priesthood. That the tolerant feelings and social happiness that prevail among us, are mainly to be attributed to the absence of that pernicious influence of priestcraft that at this moment weighs so heavily on the intelligence and energies of our Northern brethren.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the different papers of this city.

JAMES H. CALDWELL, Chairman.
Owner of the American Theatre

W. Bogart,
Thomas Duplessis, } Secretaries.

Protest of the Presbyterian Congregation of New Orleans.

At a meeting of the members of the congregation of the Presbyterian Church of New Orleans, held on Monday evening, 15th December, 1834, to take into consideration certain resolutions adopted at a meeting held on the 13th inst., at Bishop's Hotel, Jos. A. Maybin, Esq. was called to the Chair, and Mr. John S. Walton appointed Secretary; and the following resolutions were unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That the members of this congregation do feel the firmest conviction, derived from a full and impartial consideration of all the evidence which is accessible to them, that their pastor, the Rev. Mr. Parker, did not use the language imputed to him by the resolutions of the meeting held in New Orleans on the 13th December, 1834, at Hartford, during the month of August last, in a public address there delivered; nor did he, in that address, or in any other during the past summer, made in the northern cities, slander and calumniate the citizens of New Orleans. But on the contrary, we believe that he uniformly spoke of them in terms respectful, conciliatory, and becoming a Christian minister, and in a manner calculated to excite feelings of kindness and good will towards the population of New Orleans.

2. That while the members of this congregation entertain a respect for the feelings and opinions of this community, nevertheless they are bound as Christians and as citizens to sustain those of its members whom they conscientiously believe to be charged or condemned unjustly by such feelings and opinions; and especially to vindicate their pastor when innocent of charges made against him.

3. That while the members of this congregation freely accord to all men the right of forming their own religious opinions, and worshipping Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences, they themselves equally claim the same right. They do maintain that they are entitled to choose their own pastor, and to enjoy the benefit of his religious instruction, unmolested by the interference of any man or body of men; and that they justly claim the protection of the constitution and laws of their country for the security of this precious liberty as long as they exercise it legally.

4. That the members of this congregation conceive both their civil and religious rights have been invaded by the aforesaid resolutions of the 13th December, 1834. They are an attempt to deprive them of their pastor and banish him from their society; and it is a precedent equally fatal to all religious denominations which now exist, or which may hereafter be established in New Orleans; as the same, or any other assembly, may in like manner take into its hands the right of determining if any and what spiritual guides shall be selected to conduct religious worship.

5. That the members of this congregation do solemnly protest against the power assumed over them in the said resolutions. They invoke the protection of the laws for liberty of conscience, and for a shield to them against persecution; and they do call on Christians of all denominations, Catholic and Protestant, and on all good citizens, to preserve and guarantee to them, and to themselves, their civil and religious rights, PROCLAIMED BY THE SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, AND SECURED BY THE FRAMERS OF THE CONSTITUTION.

Resolved, That the names of the gentlemen present be affixed to the resolutions, and that other gentlemen of the congregation be requested to sign them previous to their publication on Wednesday morning.

Joseph A. Maybin,
F. R. Southmayd,
Thomas Smith,
R. A. Striker,
Thomas Stewart,
N. Goodale,
B. Harod,
Robert Gray,
J. Martin,
H. Farrie,
U. B. Brewster,
S. Slater,
J. R. Moore,
H. Hooker,
William Henderson,
H. E. Thomas,
N. C. Lane,
F. H. Hatch,
Robert H. McNair,
Isaac Littlefield,
W. W. Caldwell,
W. Baker,
John Rollins,
Daniel P. Ruff,
Charles Patterson,
D. M. Hubbard,
William T. Mayo,
G. Whitney,
T. M. Burgess,
John S. Walton,
Samuel H. Harper,
E. G. Hyde,
George E. Porter,
William L. Slaughter.
J. Thayer,
Amos T. Dwight,
J. C. Baldwin,
S. Franklin,
Peter Maxwell,
Joseph G. Walton,
Samuel T. Bull,
George W. Hotchkiss,
Alfred Hennen,
T. Parmele,
L. J. Robbins,
William M. Goodrich,
Lucius Hitchcock,
John G. Gaines,
B. L. Day,
D. H. Lloyd,

25

To the Society of Inquiry
Theological Seminary
Princeton
New-Jersey

The Chapel has been
used for preaching
I understand.

Please remember me affectionately to each
of the professors and all the brethren.

Dr J. N. All[illegible] New Orleans
Rec'd Jan 9th 1835